

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is canceled and claims 2 and 8 are amended.

**I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,628 to Takaragi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed

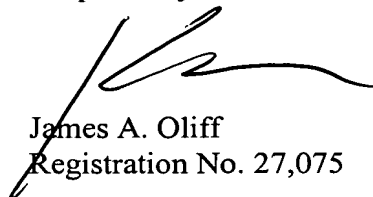
Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 2 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, claims 2 and 8 are rewritten in independent form including the features of base claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Further, claims 3-7 and 9-13, depending on claims 2 and 8 respectively, are also in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley  
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 26, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---